

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-08 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01

XMB-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /087 W

-----046700 301948Z /47

P R 301845Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY BAMA KO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9058

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAMA KO 1504

DEPT ALSO FOR AID/W - AA/AFR, AFR/SFWA

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID ML US

SUBJECT: PROPOSED VISIT OF OMVS CHIEFS OF STATE TO EUROPE AND
NORTH AMERICA

REF: BAMA KO 1270

1. SUMMARY. PRESIDENTS MOUSSA TRAORE, LEOPOLD SENGHOR, AND OULD DADDAH PROPOSE TO VISIT PARIS, BONN, OTTAWA, AND WASHINGTON IN LATE MAY AND EARLY JUNE TO GAIN SUPPORT FOR OMVS (SENEGAL RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT) PROJECTS. AN ADVANCE MINISTERIAL LEVEL TEAM WILL CARRY A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT TRAORE TO THESE CAPITALS IN THE NEAR FUTURE, BEGINNING PROBABLY NEXT WEEK. REQUEST WASHINGTON'S REACTION. END SUMMARY.

2. MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

LAMINE KEITA CONVOKED ME

MARCH 30 TO CONVEY A MESSAGE ON BEHALF OF PRESIDENT MOFISA TRAORE, CURRENT HEAD OF THE CONFERENCE OF OMVS CHIEFS OF STATE. THAT MESSAGE WAS THAT PRESIDENTS TRAORE, LEOPOLD SENGHOR OF SENEGAL, AND
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MOKTAR OULD DADDAH OF MAURITANIA PLANNED A TRIP TO EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA TO SEE PRESIDENTS CARTER AND GISCARD D'ESTAING, CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT, AND PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU TO "SENSITIZE" THEM TO THE OMVS PROGRAM.

3. THE MINISTER EXPLAINED THAT THE OMVS FIRST-PHASE PROJECTS COVERED CONSTRUCTION

OF THE MANANTALI AND DIAMA DAMS, EXPANSION OF THE PORTS OF ST. LOUIS IN SENEGAL AND KAYES IN MALI, AND DEVELOPMENT OF NINE RIVER STOPS BETWEEN THESE TWO PORTS. THE TWO DAMS WOULD COST ABOUT \$500 MILLION; WHILE CONSIDERABLE SUMS HAD BEEN PLEDGED BY VARIOUS DONORS, INCLUDING THE ARAB STATES THE THREE OMVS PRESIDENTS HAD RECENTLY VISITED, MUCH ADDITIONAL FUNDING WAS REQUIRED. CONSEQUENTLY, THE THREE HAD DECIDED TO UNDERTAKE A CAMPAIGN AMONG DONORS ELSEWHERE.

4. KEITA SAID THAT IN THE NEAR FUTURE, PROBABLY NEXT WEEK, ADRIEN SENGHOR, SENEGALESE MINISTER OF EQUIPMENT AND PRESIDENT OF THE OMVS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, AND MAMADOU AW, OMVS HIGH COMMISSIONER, INTENDED TO VISIT THE CAPITALS CONCERNED TO DELIVER A LETTER ON THE MATTER FROM PRESIDENT TRAORE.

5. MINISTER KEITA AGAIN SAID HE HAD BEEN CHARGED BY THE MALIAN PRESIDENT TO ASK THE AMBASSADORS IN BAMAKO TO INFORM THEIR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS AND TO EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE THE THREE PRESIDENTS ATTACHED TO THE OMVS AND TO THE PROJECTED TRIP.

6. QUESTIONING REVEALED THAT THE THREE PRESIDENTS PROPOSED TO BEGIN THE VISIT IN MAY, STARTING WITH PARIS AND BONN, THEN GOING ON TO OTTAWA, AND ENDING UP IN WASHINGTON IN VERY EARLY JUNE FOR ONE OR TWO DAYS AT THE MOST. LAMINE KEITA REFERRED TO SOME SORT OF VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES ALREADY SET UP FOR PRESIDENT SENGHOR IN THE SAME TIME-FRAME. WITH RESPECT TO THE SENGHOR-AW ADVANCE
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PARTY, THE DATES WERE NOT DEFINITE, BUT THEY WOULD SEEK APPOINTMENTS THROUGH THE MALIAN EMBASSIES IN THE VARIOUS CAPITALS.

7. I MENTIONED SEVERAL TIMES THE HEAVY COMMITMENT OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S CALENDAR. I FURTHER STRESSED THE CONGRESSIONAL CONSTRAINTS ON EXPENDITURES FOR INFRASTRUCTURE, PARTICULARLY SUCH MAJOR UNDERTAKINGS AS DAMS. MINISTER KEITA RESPONDED WITH A SPIRITED STATEMENT THAT THE ONLY WAY THE SAHEL COULD ACHIEVE FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY, BEAT THE DROUGHT, AND MEET THE NEEDS OF THE POOR WAS THROUGH WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, A KEY ELEMENT OF WHICH WAS DEVELOPMENT OF THE SENEGAL RIVER BASIN. THE TVA, MOREOVER, WAS THE OMVS MODEL. HE SAID HE WOULD ACCOMPANY THE THREE CHIEFS OF STATE AND WAS MORE THAN READY TO TRY TO CONVINCE THE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS OF THE NEED OF INFRASTRUCTURE.

8. I AGREED TO TRANSMIT THE FOREGOING INFORMATION TO WASHINGTON.

9. FRENCH AMBASSADOR ROBERT MAZEYRAC WAS ALSO CONVOKED MARCH 30 TO BE GIVEN THE SAME MESSAGE. HIS REACTION WAS THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT NOT TO RECEIVE THREE CHIEFS OF STATE. HE WAS IN ANY EVENT SURE OF A POSITIVE RESPONSE FROM PARIS TO THE PROPOSED TRIP, FIRST BECAUSE FRANCE WAS ALREADY CONTRIBUTING TO THE OMVS DAM PRO-

JECTS, AND SECOND BECAUSE THE VISIT
IS CLEARLY TIMED TO COINCIDE
WITH THE FRANCOPHILE AFRICA SUMMIT ALREADY SCHEDULED TO BE HELD
IN PARIS IN MAY.

10. THE WEST GERMAN AMBASSADOR, HANS ALBRECHT SCHRAEPLER, WAS ALSO
SUMMONED BUT WILL NOT MEET THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT
UNTIL MARCH 31 OWING TO
TEMPORARY ILLNESS.

11. COMMENT: LIKE THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR, IT SEEMS DIFFICULT TO ME
NOT TO RECEIVE THREE CHIEFS OF STATE WHO WANT TO COME TO WASHING-
TON. I VERY MUCH HOPE SOMETHING CAN BE WORKED OUT IN SPITE OF THE
CRUSHING PRESSURES ON HIGH OFFICIALS AND EVEN THOUGH THE PROS-
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PECTS OF ANY DIRECT U.S. CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE DAM CONSTRUCTION
(AS DISTINCT FROM AN INDIRECT INVOLVEMENT THROUGH THE WORLD BANK)
ARE SLIM. SUCH A VISIT MIGHT EVENTUALLY HELP US ON THE INFRASTRUC-
TURE FRONT. I WOULD APPRECIATE WASHINGTON'S AREACTION.
BYRNE

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Message Attributes

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